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Loans will not dry up, Koizumi tells Dr M

TOKYO: New Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has given an assurance that his Government will continue to extend loans to Malaysia especially for infrastructural projects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who met his Japanese counterpart here yesterday said that Koizumi had responded positively to Malaysia's request.

Dr Mahathir also hoped that Japanese companies would support Malaysia's plans to promote genetic research.

"We hope we can build facilities for research and Japanese companies will come to Malaysia for gene structure and coding which has potential in the medical field," he told Malaysian journalists.

On his visit to the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation's research and development centre here, Dr Mahathir said he was impressed with the company's multi-functional smartcard which uses a powerful chip that could store a lot of information.

He also said the telecommunications company had expressed its confidence in the Multimedia Super Corridor and was expanding its research laboratory in Cyberjaya.